

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 DOTE-00 EB-11

COME-00 FDRE-00 SSO-00 /041 W

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O 221503Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4039

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2300

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, CA

SUBJECT: WASHOUT ON ALASKA HIGHWAY

REF: OTTAWA 2277

1. OUR SOURCE AT PUBLIC WORKS CALLED TCO MORNING JULY 22 TO MODIFY INFORMATION OF JULY 19. INDICATED PRESENT PICTURE WAS THAT ALASKA HIGHWAY WOULD NOT BE FULLY OPEN BETWEEN FORT NELSON, B.C. AND WATSON LAKE, YUKON ON EVEN TEMPORARY BASIS BEFORE JULY 25 OR 26. TEMPORARY FILL AND CULVERTS TECHNICQUE NO LONGER CONSIDERED POSSIBLE AT RACING RIVER. WASHED OUT BRIDGE NOW CONSIDERED SALVAGEABLE ON TEMPORARY BASIS AND THIS IS TECHNIQUE TO BE USED BUT WILL TAKE SEVERAL DAYS TO RESTORE SPAN. WORK IS UNDERWAY.

2. CBC NEWS REPORT LATE NIGHT OF JULY 20 QUOTED BRITISH COLUMBIA HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT AS INDICATING EXTENSIVE WORK REQUIRED AND SUGGESTING AT LEAST A WEEK (I.E., UNTIL JULY 28) WOULD BE NECESSARY TO REOPEN ROAD. ALSO REFERRED TO SHORTAGES OF SUPPLIES AT WHITEHORSE AND NEED TO AIRLIFT PERISHABLE GOODS DESTINED FOR THAT POINT CONTAINED IN TRUCKS STRANDED ON HIGHWAY. OUR SOURCE COULD NOT COMMENT ON THIS CBC REPORT. HOWEVER, MONTREAL GAZETTE FOR JULY 22 CONTAINS CANADIAN PRESS ITEM INDICATING AIRLIFT UNDERWAY AND REPORTING SOME 200 TOURISTS (INCLUDING AMERICANS) WELL CARED FOR AT LODGES

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AND CAMPSITES IN ISOLATED AREAS, ESPECIALLY AT MUNCHO

LAKE. ARTICLE ALSO SUGGESTS IT MIGHT BE A WEEK BEFORE
TEMPORARY REPAIRS ARE COMPLETED.

3. CONGEN VANCOUVER REQUESTED DEVELOP WHATEVER
INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM B.C. OFFICIALS AND REPORT
BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM TO WASHINGTON AND OTTAWA.
JOHNSON

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
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